**Key Literary Terms**

**allegory**
A literary work with a meaning other than its literal meaning (e.g. *Animal Farm* was an allegory of life in Soviet Russia; Lord of the Flies has a significant number of allusions to Judeo-Christian mythology, i.e. biblical allegories)

**alliteration**
The repetition of the first sound in words (e.g. Monday morning madness)

**allusion**
Make a reference or allude to a well-known person, place or thing (e.g. I am no Scrooge, but $100 for that scarf is too much.)

**anagram**
Words or phrases spelled with the same letters as other words or phrases. (e.g. grate/ great; react/crate)

**analogy**
A comparison showing a similarity in two or more persons or things that wouldn’t ordinarily be thought similar (e.g. the instructor in my first computer class was a Daniel Boone, leading me through uncharted territory)

**antagonist**
The opponent to the main character (the protagonist)

**antonym**
A word that is the opposite of another (e.g. hot is an antonym of cold)

**autobiography**
A work of substance based on the life of the author

**biography**
A work detailing the events in the life of a real person, written by someone else.

**characterisation**
The creation of believable, well-rounded characters, and the way in which the author reveals characters’ individualities.

**cliché**
An overused expression (e.g. over the hill, give it 100 percent, etc.)

**climax**
The highest point of action in a story.

**dialogue**
A conversation between two characters.

**dystopian novel**
A novel in which the attempt to create a perfect society fails.

**euphemism**
The use of a gentler word or phrase in place of something explicit or harsh (e.g. passed away instead of died)

**first person**
A style of writing that gives the thoughts of the speaker; a point of view in which the speaker, a character in the story or poem, tells the events from his or her perspective.

**foreshadowing**
The use of hints about what will come

**hyperbole**
Conscious exaggeration to make a point (e.g. Sam is as skinny as a rail)
imagery  use of words or phrases that appeal to any of the five senses to describe an event or scene

irony  the opposite of what is expected to happen or be said

metaphor  a comparison without using like or as; (e.g. “His icy eyes pierced my soul”; eyes are compared to ice with no like or as)

mood  the tone or emotional thrust an author deliberately imparts in characters or scenes

paradox  a statement that seems to be impossible or contradictory but also seems to be true (e.g. “the more I learn, the less I know”)

parable  a short story that teaches a lesson in morality

parody  a work that makes fun of or imitates the style of another work, either affectionately or harshly

personification  giving human qualities to places or things that are not human (e.g. The sun smiled on my wedding day)

plot  the pattern of events in a story, novel or drama

point of view  the standpoint from which a story is told

protagonist  the main character, usually but not always the “good guy”

satire  writing that ridicules its subject

second person  a method of writing that addresses readers as you

setting  the time and place of a story, novel, drama or poem

simile  the comparison of two unlike persons or objects, using the words like or as (e.g. my throat was as dry as the desert)

symbol  something that represents something else

synonym  a word that means the same or nearly the same as another word (e.g. read/peruse)

theme  a recurring message or idea throughout a literary or dramatic work

third person  a style of writing giving the thoughts of someone other than the speaker (I) or reader (you)

tragedy  a drama or literary work that ends with the main character failing in valiant efforts

understatement  an intentional restraint or lack of emphasis in writing, often for a humorous intention

utopian novel  a novel that depicts a society without any problems; the ideal world